



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Riverside Innovation Honoree for July 2012

Riverside, California – On Tuesday, July 10, Riverside will announce this month's Innovation Honoree, Bourns, Inc., at the City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Bourns, Inc. was founded in 1947 by Marlan and Rosemary Bourns. Gordon Bourns, son of the co-founders, is Chairman and CEO of Bourns Inc. Gordon resides in Riverside and is a member of the Riverside Technology CEO Forum and Smart Riverside. He is active throughout the community serving on many boards including the Riverside Police Foundation, the Marlan and Rosemary Bourns School of Engineering at UCR, the Visitors for Cal Baptist University, and the UCR Foundation. He was selected by the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce as Citizen of the Year for 2012.

"Riverside is proud to recognize the significant efforts of Mr. Gordon Bourns in growing the family business in Riverside and providing leadership to our Universities and non-profits" said Mayor Loveridge.

More than sixty years ago co-founders Marlan and Rosemary Bourns set up shop in their tiny 384 square-foot garage in Altadena, California, a replica of which is housed at their Global Headquarters in Riverside. Their idea to provide a method of accurately determining an aircraft's pitch and attitude solved crucial problems for pilots. Their invention of the first miniature vane position potentiometers and linear motion potentiometers propelled their tiny business into a global corporation. In 1952, Marlan Bourns patented the world's first miniature trimming potentiometer which he trademarked as the Trimspot®.

Bourns has nine other manufacturing facilities around the world and has continued growing with Gordon's leadership through product development and acquisitions. Product lines now include the Trimspot® trimming potentiometers, precision potentiometers, panel controls, resistor networks/arrays, inductors, transformers, self-resettable fuses, thyristors, diode arrays, gas discharge tubes, telephony protectors, integrated modules and a wide range of automotive sensors for steering position, steering torque, wheel speed, fuel level and chassis position. The major markets served by Bourns are automotive, industrial, telecommunications, telephony and consumer.